

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Patent Office has restricted the application to one of the following groups of inventions:

- Group I.        directed to claims 27-38;
- Group II.       directed to claims 39-49; and
- Group III.      directed to claims 50-52.

In response, Applicants elect without traverse Group I and thus request that claims 27-38 be examined in due course. Regarding the non-elected subject matter, Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application to pursue this subject matter at a later stage.

The election of claims 27-38 for examination replaces Applicants previous election with respect to claims 1-12. As the Examiner correctly noted, claims 1-12 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In a Preliminary Amendment filed along with the application, claims 27-38 were presented as new and further correspond to originally-filed claims 1-12.


Applicants believe that they have been responsive to the restriction requirement with this submission, and thus, respectfully request an examination of the elected claims (e.g., claims 27-38) in due course.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing.

Respectfully submitted,

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